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October 15, 2004

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunication and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02202

Re: D.T.E. 04-70 — Petition of Boston Edison Company and Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric for Approvals Relating to the Issuance of Rate Reduction Bonds Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1H

D.T.E. 04-78 — Petition of Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric for Approvals Relating to the Termination of Its Obligations to Purchase Electricity Under a Power Purchase Agreement with Dartmouth Power Associates Limited Partnership

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

On October 7, 2004, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") convened procedural conferences in the above-referenced proceedings relating to petitions filed by Boston Edison Company ("Boston Edison") and Commonwealth Electric Company ("Commonwealth", and together with Boston Edison, the "Companies"). At the procedural conferences, there was discussion about the procedural schedules for the proceedings, and the Attorney General proposed changes to a tentative schedules previously suggested by the Hearing Office. On October 12, 2004, in response to the request of the Hearing Officer, the Companies filed a letter addressing whether an order in D.T.E. 04-70 issued pursuant to the alternative schedule proposed by the Attorney General would be valid in accordance with G.L. c. 164, § 1H(b)(5).

Since the date of the procedural conference, the Attorney General and the Companies have conferred about the schedules and jointly propose that the Department adopt the attached schedules. The Companies and the Attorney General are authorized to represent that the other parties to the cases have no objection to approval of the schedules.

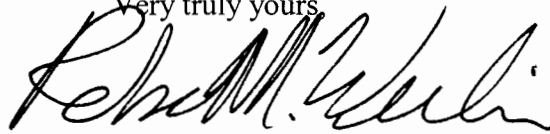
These schedules contemplate a final Department order for the two cases by January 14, 2005. As indicated in the letter filed on October 12, 2004, the Companies believe that an order approving the requested financing issued on that date "would, upon expiration of any appeal period, be valid and would properly authorize issuance of Rate

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Reduction Bonds". It is estimated by the Companies that a final order issued on January 14, 2005, rather than December 15, 2004 as initially requested, could result in a potential reduction of the Companies' calculation of customer benefits of as low as \$1 million. This is lower than the \$2.9 million monthly number indicated on Exhibit NSTAR-GOL at 30, because even if the order were issued on December 15, 2004, it is likely that some critical-path tasks would have to be deferred because of the intervening holiday period.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Werlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert N. Werlin

Enclosure

cc: Service List

PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULES

D.T.E. 04-78 – DARTMOUTH POWER

November 4, 2004	Discovery ends
November 10, 2004	Evidentiary hearings
November 15, 2004	Responses to record requests due
November 17, 2004	Initial briefs
November 24, 2004	Reply briefs

D.T.E. 04-70 – SECURITIZATION

November 23, 2004	Discovery ends
December 1-2, 2004	Evidentiary hearings
December 8, 2004	Responses to record requests due
December 10, 2004	Initial briefs
December 17, 2004	Reply briefs